

STATEMENT BY LT. GOVERNOR JOHN GARAMENDI ON GOVERNOR'S STATEWIDE DROUGHT PROCLAMATION AND EXECUTIVE ORDER

SACRAMENTO – Lt. Governor John Garamendi had the following comments today on the Governor's statewide drought proclamation and executive order:

"The concerning findings in the governor's executive order should serve as a wake-up call to us all: in the context of global climate change and California's rapid population growth, we must manage our water smarter.

"In addition to the conservation measures ordered by the governor today, we must consider new and innovative resource management strategies that allow us to do more with less. The simple truth is California's water infrastructure cannot withstand the dual stresses of climate change and population growth. We must adapt to manage our water more efficiently.

"To that end, I have been working with leading hydrologists, meteorologists and space scientists from around the nation to develop a pilot program for 'adaptive' water and flood management of the American River watershed, a plan that could eventually be used in all California river systems. While there are currently many proposals for water conservation and management being developed, this innovative initiative – which I call H2O, 2.0 – uses existing technologies and could be fully implemented in one year, tested over four years and then used to replace the historic average methodology in making critical water and flood decisions. The cost is expected to be less than \$4 million over the four-year period.

"I plan to continue working with the Governor and the Legislature to find immediate and long term solutions for our state's water future."

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For Immediate Release

June 4, 2008

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